

**(1) Society for Hawaiian Archaeology (SHA) Conference 2005**  
**David Lawrence Brown, Branch Chief Archaeologist**  
**Hawaii - State Historic Preservation Division**  
**Department of Land and Natural Resources**

Mahalo, Melanie, for that very generous introduction.

ALOHA KAKAHIKA.

I am HONORED and HUMBLed to stand here this morning before my peers, the leaders of archaeology in the State of Hawai'i, and I welcome this opportunity to present myself to you, as your new Branch Chief Archaeologist.

I am eager to commit myself toward the betterment of Hawaiian Archaeology in the name of Historic Preservation, in allegiance to the future generations of this great State.

At each level of my career, a solid foundation of gained skills and professional experience has prepared me for the challenges of this position.

Having only been on the job for the last three weeks, I am QUICKLY learning to master my ability to multi-task, and work amidst the bureaucracy of preservation and progress.

Along with my personal commitment to quality and high standards, my goal is to timely accomplish any task at hand.

Already, I have begun to develop strong relationships with the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and native Hawaiians alike. I have placed an emphasis on developing solid public relations, proactive involvement in project planning, and want very much to establish good working relationships with the archaeological community.

We do not serve ourselves, we serve something greater. Something that was here long before us and something that should remain here long after us, the Cultural Heritage in all of its forms, the Cultural Heritage that is Hawai'i.

However enthusiastic I may be, I recognize the talent, experience, and WISDOM that sits before me, and I WELCOME the chance to exchange ideas and perspectives, to redefine our goals, and to aid in improving our professional contributions, in a conscientious effort to catapult the State of Hawai'i as the gold standard to State Historic Preservation nationwide.

To achieve this goal, great strides begin with the first step;  
I would like to share with you my vision . . . .

## **(2) Archaeology Branch Objectives:**

- I. Streamlining the Review Process – Establishing Standards**
- II. Attack the Back Log**
- III. Provide Review and Response within Allotted Timeframes**

Our main objectives, RIGHT NOW, are to streamline the review process, tackle the back log, and to provide review and response within the allotted timeframes.

The current mode of review is inefficient. It's time-consuming, costly, and relies on sets of out-of-date data that is sometimes inaccurate.

The inventory reports used for clearance and background research are often three to four decades old.

Our Archaeological GIS database is practically nonexistent, other databases are incomplete, very little is electronic, and many of the reports are missing from our library.

We need to establish standards and requirements so that we can ALL be on the same page.

### **THE BACK LOG.**

These are the reports that have been submitted over time that have not been reviewed or commented on as of yet. These exceed two-hundred. This is unacceptable.

We need to be able to provide review and response within the allotted timeframe. We are all very aware of this.

Many projects need immediate attention, but for obvious reasons, we are currently forced to triage the most controversial and problematic of these.

Our immediate goal is to change all of this.

Let's forget about calling names, pointing the finger, tar and feathering, or burning at the stake. This is not a witch hunt.

This is an inherited set of problems and it is now all of our KULEANA to do something about it.

WE will fix this TOGETHER.

\*And you know why? Because we're good enough, we're smart enough, and dog-gone it . . . we're ARCHAEOLOGISTS.

We should all be held accountable, starting today. We owe it to ourselves, our clients, our chosen profession, the non-renewable archaeological resource, and above all, we owe it to the people of Hawai'i and the future generations.

#### **(4) PURPOSE: Establish Standards of Practice and Requirements**

- Inventory Standards**
- Monitoring Standards**
- Renew Surveys**
- GPS and GIS**
- Remote Sensing**

Inventory standards need to be established so that our survey coverage and methods are consistent.

Monitoring standards need to be put into place to provide for profile photos and illustrations, soil type information, and stratigraphy, regardless of properties found.

Renew Surveys. We are currently relying on reports that are over ten years old or more to evaluate clearances. Any project area where the survey report is ten years old or older should be renewed and site updates should be conducted. The Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture internally require this.

Symposium 3, this afternoon, Chaired by Loren Zulick, will focus on these next two areas. GPS and GIS in Hawai'i.

GPS. Global Positioning Systems can provide pin-point accuracy for locating cultural resources and aid in data collection. Hand-held units can now give sub-meter accuracy with topographic back-drops. Project boundaries can be easily identified, and pedestrian coverages can be better tracked. And for recording locational information on known and inadvertent burials, the implementation of this technology is indispensable.

GIS. Global Information Systems can allow for improved visualization of site locations, trail systems, and other resources. Site locations and surveyed areas can be loaded into databases that allow for faster more accurate background research. Probability models can be developed from this information.

#### **(5) Remote Sensing**

- Ground Penetrating Radar**
- Proton Magnetometry**
- Infrared and Spectral Satellite Imaging**

Remote Sensing technologies need to be implemented.

Tomorrow, Symposium 5, Chaired by Dr. John Peterson, will highlight the benefits.

Can we continue to go around with backhoes, digging up the ground in search of the illusive burial that so-and-so thought was around here somewhere, way-back-when? No.

Can we justify an inadvertent burial discovery when we're monitoring a utilities installation, and we haven't exhausted all of the currently available options to identify the vacant corridor? No.

## **(6) How do we change this?**

- Reports**
- Inventory Investigation Records**

1) We need to establish requirements for reports to follow predetermined, organized formats along a check-list schematic.

One working idea is that if the submitted report and supporting information is deficient, or does not follow the predetermined format, the report would be rejected.

Comments would be made and the time table would start all over again, until a complete and final report was received, in whole, in hard copy, and on disc in Acrobat.pdf format, with the appropriate changes to meet the required standards.

2) We could institute Inventory Investigation Records. Each incoming report would be assigned a tracking reference number which will be linked to any site records submitted with the particular report. Information would be entered into a networked system. This would aid in tracking reports once they arrive at SHPD, and provide adequate background information for the reviewer.

## **(7) Who Decides this?**

- SHPD**
- Independent Review Board**

The Island Head Archaeologists (Dr. Melissa Kirkendall and Nancy McMahan) and I, along with our administrator, Melanie Chinen, will represent SHPD in this effort.

An Independent Review Board will be selected to aid in the design, development and editorial process of creating standardized inventory survey forms, site forms, site update forms, working definitions, and acceptable practices and procedures that SHPD will implement and require.

## **(8) Independent Review Board**

- Federal Archaeologists**
  - o Military**
  - o National Parks**
- Academics**
- Cultural Resource Management Consultants**

The Review Board should be somewhat informal, so as to alleviate any additional bureaucracy to an already befuddled system. The Board should consist of members representing the military and national parks on the federal side, Academics from our universities, and the contracting community.

We are open for suggestion on how to select these members. Please let us know of any ideas. We would like to have a Board selected within the next two weeks.

## **(9) Development of Forms**

- Site Forms**
- Investigation Records**
- Monitoring Records**

The types of things the Board will aid in are the design, developmental, and editorial concerns relating to Site Forms, Investigation Records, and Monitoring Records.

The Board might also assist in other areas concerning the development of on-line accessible site information, report library, and data protective measures. We could also work on Administrative rules reform and Legislative motions.

## **(10) Development of Standing Agreements with Counties**

- Programmatic Agreements**
- Memorandum of Agreements**

Generalized Standing PA's and MOA's could be presented to the Counties, and modified accordingly to expedite contracts and development, and to ensure cultural resource avoidance, protection, preservation, and engineered integration/interpretation into project planning.

## **(11) ATTACKING SHPD BACKLOG**

- Filling Positions**
- Hiring Dedicated Temporary Contract Reviewers**
- Overlap**
- Internships**

We are currently looking to fill the Head Archaeologist positions on the Big Island and Oahu, and are also looking for assistants in both locations. If we are unable to get a response from current residents of Hawai'i by the end of the month, we will advertise to a Nationwide audience. We must fill these positions with qualified personnel in a timely manner. We encourage qualified native Hawaiians apply.

We would like to hire temporary contract reviewers to assist in helping us to get through our back log, and to translate information into standardized formats and databases.

Island Archaeologists will step in to review reports, even if they come from other islands. We are currently implementing this measure.

We would also like to establish internships with graduate and undergraduate students to assist in the many tasks at hand. Everything from scanning and digitizing our library, to conducting background research, to data entry, to GIS . . . you name it.

## **(12) IN A NUTSHELL:**

**Problem 1: Inefficient Review Process**

**Answer 1: Implement Required Standards and Procedures**

**Problem 2: Tackling the Back Log**

**Answer 2: Fill Available Positions, Hire Dedicated Temporary Contractors, Overlap, Internships**

**Problem 3: Provide Review and Respond within Allotted Timeframes**

**Answer 3: Triage Reviews, Focus on Current Pending Projects, Direct Contact with Contractors and Agencies to Simplify the Review.**

**(13) Mahalo**

It has been my philosophy as a professional archaeologist to treat cultural resources with the utmost of respect, with preservation in the forefront of my mind, to remind myself that I'm a trained and degreed anthropologist, to serve the native community where ever I've had the privilege of working, and to keep my self open to challenges and change.

I am very happy to be here, to serve the native Hawaiian People, and I foresee great things happening in the immediate future for us all and I know that TOGETHER, we can work to protect and preserve the Archaeological and Cultural Resources of Hawai'i.

Mahalo. Thank you.